

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF POOR,
AND ASSESSORS

OF THE
Town of Northfield

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
LIBRARY COMMITTEE
AND
TOWN TREASURER.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 21, 1885

TURNERS FALLS, MASS. :
Turners Falls Reporter Steam Printing House, Cecil T. Bagnall, Proprietor
1885.

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TO THE VOTERS AND CITIZENS OF NORTHFIELD.

Your Selectmen respectfully submit the following report :

In reporting the highway expense, we have given the cost of repairing damages from showers, and ordinary repairs, separately. This is done that you may see where the money has been used, and for what purposes. The change of grade at the crossing near Gill Station, not being completed, we are unable to give the expense. The N.L.N.Co. are to pay 4-5ths of the cost, and as we have paid the special commissioners \$123.50, four-fifths of this sum will be applied in paying that part of the expense which belongs to this town. The contingent expenses have been large the past year, owing to the new law in regard to school books, and the discount on taxes. The town has entered into a contract with Henry Wright, 2d, for the care of the Poor, for three years, from April 4, 1884, at a weekly cost of \$2.25 for each person. Your Selectmen have also contracted with A. D. Stearns to build a ferry boat, for Munn's Ferry for the sum of \$265.00,

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

Value of Real Estate, May 1, 1884,		\$556,358 00
“ Personal Property, May 1, 1884,		64,651 00
	Total,	<u>\$621,009 00</u>
No. of acres of land assessed,	19,958	
“ Dwelling Houses assessed,	377	
“ Horses assessed,	371	
“ Cows “	597	
“ Sheep “	594	
“ Polls “	440	

TOWN ASSESSMENT FOR 1884.

Raised and Appropriated for Schools,	\$2200 00
“ Repairs,	300 00
“ Paying $\frac{1}{3}$ school houses,	3775 00
“ Carrying scholars,	150 00
“ Highways,	1500 00
“ Contingent expenses,	1500 00
“ Public Library,	275 00
“ County tax,	1050 25
“ State tax,	820 00
Overlay,	4 32
	<u>\$11,574 57</u>

AMOUNT RAISED BY TAX.

On Polls,	\$880 00
On Property,	10694 57
	<u>\$11574 57</u>

Rate per cent., \$17.22 per \$1000.
 Tax on each Poll, \$2.00.

R. C. WARD,	} ASSESSORS OF NORTHFIELD.
GEO. F. ALEXANDER,	
S. G. WILDES,	

PAID FOR DAMAGE FROM SHOWER IN JULY.

Geo. Kinney,	self, stone and lights,	\$15 50
Geo. R. Clough,	"	3 00
Winsor Morgan,	"	2 25
Nelson Hilliard,	" man and team,	12 90
Landman Nye,	"	6 60
Amos Whitaker,	"	8 25
Frank Whitaker,	"	5 25
Ansel Field,	man, team and stone,	29 00
Herbert Field,	"	5 25
James Allen,	"	7 35
E. S. Severance,	"	5 55
F. H. Simonds,	"	6 45
Fred R. Clough,	" and team,	30 20
Nathan Aldrich,	"	6 75
Geo. F. Alexander,	stone and poles,	3 00
C. L. Robbins,	" and team,	13 35
C. C. Bodman,	"	90
E. B. Murdock,	"	2 03
Geo. E. Murdock,	"	5 78
M. J. Collar,	"	5 18
Ansel Collar,	plank,	35
C. H. Stimpson,	"	3 00
Hollis Field,	"	2 74
A. W. Shepardson,	"	2 80
John Wentworth,	" man and team,	27 60
F. Whithed,	"	6 15
Joseph Park,	"	3 90
John B. Putney,	" and team,	9 22
H. A. Dresser,	"	9 97
Wm. B. Dresser,	"	9 97
Total,		\$250 24

PAID FOR DAMAGE FROM SHOWERS IN AUGUST.

John B. Putney, self and team,	\$5 85
H. A. Dresser, “	4 20
Wm. B. Dresser, “	4 20
J. A. Dresser, “	1 50
C. L. Robbins, “ and team,	11 91
J. H. Piper, “	4 50
Ansel Collar, “ and plank,	7 56
Geo. E. Murdock, “	30
E. B. Murdock, “	35
Hollis Field, “	75
M. J. Collar, “	6 00
John P. Wentworth, “ man and team,	20 07
F. Whithed, “	6 07
Joseph Park, “	5 24
Frank Farnsworth, “ and team,	10 50
A. Farnsworth, “	5 25
H. W. Stimson, “	3 75
Perley Stimson, “	3 75
M. H. Day, bridges,	531 75
F. H. Simonds, “	3 75
James Allen, “	13 50
Amos Whitaker, “	13 50
Ansel Field, man and team,	38 00
Landman Nye, “	7 80
Ralph Simonds, “	1 50
Geo. R. Clough, “	8 10
E. S. Severance, “ and team,	2 25
Clinton Whitaker, “	5 70
Geo. L. Woodard, “	13 80
H. F. Field, “ and man,	16 75
Gilbert G. Hilliard, land damage,	25 00
Lyman Gilbert, man and team,	5 75
Larkin E. Fisher, “ “	52 50
John D. Smith “	10 50
Oscar Wood, “ “	137 25

E. C. Nash,	self,	\$22 20
Chas. C. Morgan,	"	33 15
Geo. Hilliard,	"	6 00
Thomas Metcalf,	" man and team,	70 85
Albert Whitaker,	" "	15 75
James Merriam,	"	17 10
Wm. E. Merriam,	" and team,	14 25
Simeon Dudley,	"	1 50
Fred G. Morgan,	" and man,	9 00
C. A. Moulton,	plank, poles and nails,	23 41
Free. A. Hilliard,	"	75
Wm. W. Darling,	"	13 50
Samuel Ruggles,	" son and team,	27 50
Wm. H. Stratton,	" son and timber,	94 42
M. C. Miller,	" son and team,	170 30
L. C. Miller,	"	16 50
Samuel Stickney,	"	14 00
C. H. Green,	plank,	4 50
		\$1543 83

ORDINARY REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Andrew G. Hale,	self and team,	\$56 55
Henry W. Webster,	man and team,	192 00
Chas. X. Janes,	self,	9 61
Chas. Parker,	"	10 65
Chas. Stratton,	"	45
Pat. Dale,	"	1 50
Maurice Joyce,	"	6 75
Jerry Campbell,	"	1 50
A. J. Arlin,	"	5 25
W. C. Reed,	"	18 25
Elisha Alexander,	"	90
R. C. Ward,	"	75
A. L. Hale,	" and team,	42 65
Benj. Hale,	"	6 30
Willie Day,	"	60

James Campbell, self,		\$5 25
Elias Lyman, "		10 20
Wm.D.Alexander "	man and team,	39 90
Chas. Britton, "	and team,	4 40
E. Wells. Colton, "	"	8 10
Geo. F. Moody, "	"	50
Clarence Moody, "		45
Samuel K.Sawyer, "		66 06
H. H. Johnson, "		6 00
F. B. Holton, "		4 50
Joseph Clark, "		30
A. Holton, "		1 50
Lester Hale, "		1 65
Arnold Holton, "		7 80
Merrill T. Moore,	plank,	20 00
Joel Randall, "		1 50
Clarence A. Randall "		1 60
Fred R. Clough, "	and team,	38 05
James Allen, "		9 30
Geo. R. Clough, "		1 05
Landman Nye, "		6 00
Anson Gage, "		30
Ansel Field, "	man and team,	8 75
Benj. F. Streeter, "	and team,	1 50
Eliphas Elnore, "		75
Harris Simonds, "		30
H. A. Simonds, "		3 90
Amos Whitaker, "		1 00
S. G. Titus, "	and team,	25 30
C. S. Titus, "		75
Joseph Burton, "		2 50
E. C. Nash, "		13 53
Lyman Gilbert,	plank,	60
H. W. Montague, "		3 00
Thos. Metcalf, "	man and team,	3 90
Samuel Ruggles, "		9 25
Sumner Stratton, "		1 13
James Merriam, " *		75
David Clough, "		1 50
M. C. Miller, "		3 15

Oscar Wood,	self, team and plank,	\$23 55
L. C. Miller	"	10 65
Fred C. Morgan,	"	1 80
Clinton Whitaker,	"	15
Albert Whitaker,	" and team,	7 95
Samuel Johnson,	"	2 25
Willis Wrisley,	"	4 65
Wm. Smith,	"	4 05
H. F. Field,	use of plow,	50
Geo. Woodard,	"	75
Wallace Morgan,	"	1 50
Wm. H. Stratton,	"	5 25
J. L. May,	"	1 20
C. A. Moulton,	plank,	1 89
Wm. E. Merriam,	"	4 50
S. G. Wildes,	" and team,	51 64
S. L. Gates,	"	3 95
James N. Caldwell,	"	12 60
H. W. Howe,	" and team,	27 45
Wm. Burrows,	" man and team,	64 90
Picket Brothers,	" team and timber,	219 00
E. J. Blanchard,	"	19 70
Benj. Morrison,	"	75
Geo. Witt,	" and team,	6 37
C. J. Anderson,	"	4 05
Chas. Sanford,	"	10 95
A. P. Burton,	"	3 30
Henry Lyman,	"	1 10
Elias Watson,	"	2 15
N. W. Purple,	" and team,	80
D. L. Kingsley,	"	2 70
Fred Z. Allen,	" man and team,	61 55
Conn. R. R. R. Co.,	freight on drain pipe,	8 00
Cent. Vt. R. R. Co.,	" " "	16 10
Frank Farnsworth,	" and team,	39 65
H. W. Stimson,	"	1 50
A. E. Farnsworth,	"	4 50
J. A. Holland,	"	2 00
P. Pierce,	"	2 00
Simon Fisher,	"	1 05
Chas. L. Robbins,	" and team,	27 50

H. E. Robbins,	self,	\$3 27
Ansel Collar,	“ and plank,	7 46
M. J. Collar,	“	7 29
E. B. Murdock,	“	70
Geo. E. Murdock,	“	99
C. H. Stimson,	“	18
Frank Harneffs,	“	3 00
C. C. Bodman,	“	60
W. F. Piper,	“	25
W. E. Piper,	“	25
J. H. Piper,	“	25
G. W. Piper,	“	44
A. W. Shepardson,	“	1 05
O. T. Greenleaf,	“	5 74
Herbert Sargent,	“	5 51
Myron Chapin,	plank,	90
John B. Putney,	“ and team,	25 36
James A. Dresser,	“	13 04
Benj. Davis,	“	2 10
Henry Hammond,	“	45
Chas. Davis,	“	45
Henry Dresser,	“	12 82
S. H. Collar,	“	3 67
John Harrington,	“	5 55
John P. Wentworth,	“ man and team,	24 32
Frank Whithed,	“	12 08
J. W. Park,	“	6 53
Wm. W. Merriam,	“	3 38
J. V. Wilcox & Co.,	drain pipe,	58 80
Geo. Tyler,	plates and points,	24 00
		\$1565 63

PAID FOR NEW ROAD.

James Butler, contract,	\$200 00
Chas. Warden, self,	7 00
James Campbell, “	6 00
Maurice Joyce, “	4 50
Thomas Redding, “	6 00
James Hodnet, “	6 00
R. A. Simonds, “	1 43
F. R. Simonds, “	1 43
James W. Cowles, horse and cart,	2 00
	\$234 36

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Cecil T. Bagnall, printing reports,	\$23 20
John Roberts, care of ferryboat,	2 00
Henry Wright, hearse, graves, hall and work,	111 40
Mrs. Mary M. Doolittle, land damage,	66 67
Field & Hall, blanks,	4 90
John Bowman, painting hearse,	31 80
J. L. Lyons, trimming, hearse,	48 68
Geo. W. Page, “ “	5 25
Chas. W. Stebbins, “ “	1 25
F. H. Turner, painting Urns,	3 50
Thos. Quinlon, wood for hall,	40 50
R. K. Caldwell, special commissioners,	123 50
R. K. Caldwell, abatement of taxes,	62 38
R. K. Caldwell, 5 per cent. discount,	306 39
R. K. Caldwell, services as town officer,	92 71
R. K. Caldwell, taking S. Grout to Northfield,	1 00

Arnold H. Holton, setting trees on Parker street,	\$5 00
Chas. W. Stebbins, repairing seats in hall,	2 50
Lockwood, Brooks & Co., new books,	199 56
Henry Holton, new table,	6 00
J. A. Dresser, mowing cemetery,	1 50
Lucius Stimson, " "	1 50
Freeman A. Hilliard, " "	3 00
Henry C. Holton, " "	1 50
Chas. H. Green, work, " "	22 50
Library Com., balance of appropriation,	75 44
Henry Johnson, heirs, abatement of tax,	11 85
Chas. Pomeroy, abatement of taxes,	3 95
Chas. Pomeroy, services as committee,	7 50
Chas. Pomeroy, contract,	50
Chas. Pomeroy, affidavits,	7 00
Elias Lyman, services as town officer,	113 78
David Aiken & Son, legal advice,	3 00
E. A. Hall, advertising,	1 00
S. G. Wildes, guide boards,	1 50
E. Wells Colton, grades on new road,	2 00
A. D. Stearns, repairing boat, bell and lib.,	4 75
L. T. Webster, school books,	265 87
L. T. Webster, goods for town,	5 86
L. T. Webster, agent for school books,	6 00
N. W. Purple, water trough,	4 50
Adaline Field, " "	5 00
H. W. Webster, " "	5 00
A. O. Wheeler, " "	3 00
2nd Aqueduct Co., water,	10 00
H. B. Parker, water trough,	2 00
Central Vt. R. R. Co., toll,	4 52
L. B. Grout, repairing boat,	2 75
F. A. Thomas, repairing road machine,	2 00
R. C. Ward, care of tramps,	20 75
R. C. Ward, cash items,	10 99
R. C. Ward, expenses to Boston for paupers,	11 70
Postage and telephone,	86

\$1760 96

EXPENSES IN CARING FOR THE POOR.

Jerusha Doolittle.

Paid Henry Wright, 2nd, to Feb. 20, 1885,	\$117 00
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Lucretia Sawyer.

Paid Henry Wright, 2nd, to Feb. 20, 1885,	117 00
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Margaret Ross.

Paid Henry Wright, 2nd,	\$75 20	
“ Henry Wright, 2nd, for coffin,	10 00	85 20

Susannah Grout.

Paid Henry Wright, 2nd, to Feb. 20, 1885,	37 60	
“ L. T. Webster, clothing,	2 79	40 39

Chas. Lord.

Paid F. V. Doolittle, to Feb. 23, 1885,	81 21	
L. T. Webster, clothing,	5 60	86 81

Lorenzo B. Putney.

Paid John B. Putney, to Dec. 31, 1884,	78 00
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Mrs. Sally Elmer.

Paid A. D. Elmer, to Jan. 1, 1885,	56 04
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John Doolittle.

Paid J. L. Lyons, coffin & undertaker's bill,	15 00
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Lydia E. Leonard.

Paid R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	27 00	
“ Dr. E. A. Deane, medical advice,	6 00	
“ R. C. Ward, expenses to Boston,	28 75	
“ J. Tinkham, coffin and undert'krs bill,	18 00	
“ W. A. Brizzee, board and care,	15 00	94 75

Margaret Finn.

Paid Cash items.	\$24 00	
“ Mrs. Patrick Coughlin, last sickness,	6 44	
“ R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	2 50	32 94

Margaret Reagan.

Paid H. R. Crowell, groceries,	14 50	
“ E. E. Belding, corn and potatoes,	5 75	
“ R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	6 25	26 50

Mrs. A. C. Whitaker.

Paid Wm. B. Pratt, clothing,	5 00	
“ Wm. B. Pratt, board and care,	11 28	
“ R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	4 25	20 53

Mrs. Rhoda Collar.

Paid Town of Athol, care,	12 75	
“ Willard Hagar, funeral expenses,	26 00	
“ Cash,	2 00	40 75

Mrs. Kempland.

Paid Dr. A. V. Bowker, medical attendance,	5 00	
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Lucretia Prindle.

Paid City of Boston, aid,	52 00	
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Coleman C. Smith.

Paid Northampton Hospital,	61 16	
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Chas. E. Morgan.

Paid Northampton Hospital, to Jan. 1, 1885,	191 18	
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Mary Pearson.

Paid Worcester Hospital, to Jan. 1, 1885,	229 51	
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Catherine Hanwell.

Paid Worcester Hospital, to Jan. 1, 1885,	\$169 92
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Dwight Cook.

Paid Town of Montague, aid,	\$32 24	
“ Dr. A. Cobb, medical attendance,	10 50	
“ T. B. Stratton, groceries,	40 00	82 74

Archibald Watson.

Paid City of Cambridge, medical attendance,	24 00
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Wm. Linton.

Paid City of Boston, aid,	10 89
	\$1637 31

Rec'd of R. K. Caldwell, guardian,

Mary Pearson,	\$83 37	
Lucretia Sawyer,	117 00	\$200 37

Amount expended for support of poor,	\$1436 94
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R. C. WARD,	}	OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.
GEO. F. ALEXANDER,		
S. G. WILDES,		

SCHOOL EXPENSES.

SCHOOL No. 1.

Emma Rhoad, teaching and board,	\$276 00	
Belle S. Benjamin, teaching and board,	98 00	
Lucy Peck, teaching and board,	72 00	
Helen Palmer, teaching and board,	96 00	
Chas. S. Arlin, care of house,	25 50	
Mary Grace, care of room,	3 00	
Maggie Grace, care of room,	3 00	
Thos. Quinlon, wood for No. 1 and 2,	67 50	
Maurice Joyce, cleaning No. 1,	8 00	
		\$649 00

SCHOOL No. 2.

Irene Mattoon, teaching and board,	\$88 00	
Florine I. Purple, teaching and board,	176 00	
D. Everett Lyman, supplies and care		
No. 2 and 7,	25 98	
James Campbell, care of room,	3 00	
		\$292 98

SCHOOL No. 3.

Gertrude Mattoon, board and teaching,	\$240 00	
Maggie Boyle, care of room,	3 30	
Cora M. Parker, care of room,	3 30	
Geo. A. Nye, care of room,	3 00	
Mrs. James Boyle, cleaning room,	4 50	
J. W. Mann, wood,	14 00	
		\$268 10

SCHOOL No. 4.

G. M. Starkweather, teaching, board and		
incidentals,	\$267 23	
Geo. C. Starkweather, care of room,	10 05	
Chas. D. Moulton, care of room,	4 40	
Chas. A. Moulton, wood,	22 25	
Dwight Hillard, broom,	30	
Willis Wrisley, drawing sand,	1 00	
		\$305 23

SCHOOL No. 5.

Winnie Atherton, teaching, board and care of room,	\$182 50
Wm. W. Merriman, wood,	9 00
	\$191 50

SCHOOL No. 6.

Ella M. Parker, teaching, board and care of room,	\$170 10
Otis T. Greenleaf, wood and cleaning,	15 45
	\$185 55

SCHOOL No. 7.

Winnie Atherton, teaching and board,	\$21 00
Cora B. Holton, " "	42 00
Cora H. Preston, " "	157 50
Wm. Bain, wood,	14 00
Fred J. Aldrich, care of room,	4 50
	\$239 00

SCHOOL No. 9.

Lena F. Lee, teaching and board,	\$247 50
Fred Holton, care of room,	2 20
L. H. Crandell, care of room,	2 50
Sherman Bartlett, care of room,	3 00
Mrs. Thos. Grace, cleaning,	2 00
M. T. Moore, cleaning and wood,	20 00
	\$277 20

Town of Bernardston, tuition and use of books,	\$20 13
Lewis T. Webster, school supplies,	33 53
	\$2462 22

SCHOOL HOUSE REPAIRS.

A. R. Barber, No. 7,	\$3 90
H. W. Howe, No. 7,	13 00
M. T. Moore, No. 9,	3 50
Maurice Joyce, chairs to No. 4,	1 50
John Crelan " "	1 50
Central Vt. R. R. Co., freight on chairs,	4 54
W. C. Reed, No. 1.	1 75
Carroll W. Clark, chairs and table,	62 50
M. A. Moody, No. 1,	1 00
Roswell Stratton, No. 9,	90
J. L. May, No. 4,	23 45
C. A. Moulton, No. 4,	7 84
Wm. Smith, No. 4,	2 00
Otis T. Greenleaf, No. 6,	7 85
J. K. Allen, No. 4,	4 00
Wm. J. Phelps, No. 4,	22 50
Mrs. Abbie Barrett, No. 4,	1 50
H. W. Montague, No. 4,	16 13
F. H. Turner, painting blackboards,	3 60
Chas W. Stebbins, No. 1,	1 50
H. B. Parker, No. 3,	1 50
Thos. B. Stratton, No. 4,	5 90
Heywood Brothers & Co., chairs No. 4,	17 00
Lucius Stimson, No. 5,	6 50
A. C. Parsons & Son, materials,	4 09
J. B. Callender, material,	5 15
	\$224 60

CARRYING SCHOLARS.

Frank Farnsworth,	\$94 50
Mrs. Lucy Dresser,	49 50
	\$144 00

SELECTMEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

SELECTMEN IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

To orders drawn since Feb. 22, 1884,	Dr.	\$10226 65
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	Cr.	
By Paid R. K. Caldwell, selectman,	\$125 75	
“ R. C. Ward, selectman,	78 25	
“ Geo. F. Alexander, selectman,	62 75	
“ Rev. J. L. Marsh, school com.,	47 00	
“ W. J. Wright, school com.,	32 00	
“ J. B. Callender, school com.,	51 25	
“ C. A. Ware, auditor,	2 00	
“ S. G. Titus, auditor,	2 00	
“ Chas. Pomeroy, auditor,	2 00	
“ For highways and bridges,	3359 70	
“ For schools,	2462 22	
“ For repairing school houses,	224 60	
“ For carrying scholars,	144 50	
“ Public Library,	275 00	
“ For support of poor,	1637 31	
“ For new road,	234 36	
“ Contingent expenses,	1485 96	
		\$10226 65

R. C. WARD,	}	SELECTMEN.
GEO. F. ALEXANDER,		
S. G. WILDES,		

ELIAS LYMAN, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN
OF NORTHFIELD, FROM FEB. 22, 1884, TO FEB. 21,
1885.

To cash on hand Feb. 22, 1884,	\$1267 01	
To cash rec'd of Wright Stratton, tax '83,	1047 07	
" " R. K. Caldwell, tax '84,	8000 00	
" borrowed of Greenfield savings bank,	1600 00	
" rec'd of State Treasurer, corpora- tion tax,	1072 67	
" " National bank tax,	392 78	
" " State school fund,	216 97	
" " State Aid,	78 00	
" " County Treas. dog fund,	127 00	
" rec'd on ac't Mary Pierson,	83 37	
" " Lucretia Sawyer,	117 00	
" from Interest on revenue,	112 00	
" " Liquor license,	100 00	
" " Rent of town hall,	71 50	
" " Auctioneer license,	2 00	
		\$14287 37

EXPENDITURES.

By cash paid Outstanding orders,	\$389 33	
" " Selectmen's orders,	10161 16	
" " County tax,	1050 25	
" " State tax,	820 00	
" " State aid,	124 00	
" " Principal on district note,	771 88	
" " Interest on district note,	73 45	
" " Interest on temporary loans,	60 35	
" " State Treas., $\frac{1}{4}$ liquor li'nse,	25 00	
		\$13475 42

Cash on hand, Feb. 21, 1885, 811 95

\$14287 37

We have this day carefully examined the accounts of
Elias Lyman, treasurer of Northfield, and find the same correct,
with the proper vouchers on file.

CHARLES POMEROY, }
L. T. WEBSTER, } AUDITORS.
R. K. CALDWELL, }

Northfield, Feb. 21, 1885.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN,

FEB. 21, 1885.

Cash in treasury as per settlement,	\$811 95
Due from collector, tax of 1883,	68 53
“ “ “ “ “ 1884,	599 69
Cash in bank from county,	200 00
	\$1680 17

DUE AS PER AUDITORS' REPORT.

R. C. Ward, selectman,	\$136 25	
Geo. F. Alexander, “	99 25	
S. G. Wildes, “	98 75	
Warren J. Wright, school committee,	59 38	
J. B. Callendar, “ “	55 00	
Chas. Pomeroy, Auditor,	2 00	
L. T. Webster, “	2 00	
R. K. Caldwell, “	2 00	
Outstanding orders,	65 49	
Greenfield savings bank,	1600 00	
		\$2120 12

Balance against the town,	\$439 95
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R. C. WARD,	}	SELECTMEN OF NORTHFIELD.
GEO. F. ALEXANDER,		
S. G. WILDES,		

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In presenting our report to the inhabitants of Northfield, we are glad to report a prosperous year, and are firm in the belief that the close of this year finds the public schools of this town in a condition not inferior to that of previous years.

In accepting the trust of administering to the school affairs, we have endeavored to keep in mind public welfare, and have tried to distribute evenly, and without partiality, the benefits of the town's appropriations.

Every citizen has an interest in the trust, or ought to have, which the school committee have in charge, and a correct knowledge of the works of the board ought to be obtained by him; and as the committee elected by the citizens ought to be composed of competent and capable persons, just, to every one alike, it is only right on the part of the people, and just to the committee, whose labors are frequently too little understood, that with a good knowledge of their doings, the people should judge whether the board are faithfully discharging their work or not.

It is but a pleasure to say that your committee have not been embarrassed with petitions, and that the schools on the whole have been running with little or no friction and with much more satisfaction than last year. No action of importance has been passed without the full consent of the board, which has acted in perfect harmony. That our doings in every case have given entire satisfaction is too much to expect, and yet we are glad to say that, if we have not given satisfaction, we have come very near to it, as the good results generally will show.

We need not tell the enlightened voters of the town that their future happiness and welfare depends, in a large degree, upon the intelligent and liberal support which is given our public schools; it is a fact too well known for us to delineate and dwell upon.

There have been nine schools in town the past year, located according to vote of the town. Seven of these schools have had 33 weeks of schooling, or will have had when the school in No. 3 is finished. The other two have had 27 weeks each, and might have had 33 if the attendance had encouraged it, but the difficulty of attending school in the winter in these mountain districts was more than the parents and children could overcome, and your committee thought it best to close them after a winter term of six weeks, as the attendance was too small to warrant a continuance.

The attendance in the various schools, although not so regular as it ought to be, has been quite up to that of average years. Some irregularity has been caused by sickness, but the greater part is undoubtedly caused by the indifference of parents. We can but come to this conclusion, as there has been a vast difference in regard to the regular attendance in the different schools. Parents should co-operate more freely and willingly with the teachers and endeavor to bring about a more regular attendance, which is one of the first and all-important elements of a successful school. There is no more serious drawback to the success and prosperity of our public schools than the pernicious, generally prevailing habit of absenteeism. It is not only the pupils that are harmed by its practice, but the whole school suffers; and moreover, the teachers are perplexed and irritated. Tardiness and absence make a lamentable show upon school registers. Parents only can remedy this great evil. It is beyond our power. Some people remark that it is a misfortune that the standard of the public schools of

Northfield is not higher. If parents would pay more attention to the tardy and absent marks of their scholars, the standing could be rapidly raised.

The schools in the mountain districts have been larger, the attendance better, and the schools more prosperous than last year, the membership being somewhat increased by the fund appropriated for conveying scholars, which was placed at the discretion of your committee. The regular attendance has been better, and the progress nearer what it should be. Although this fund was raised by considerable opposition, and has caused us a good deal of annoyance for a small one, by the frequent demands made upon us by people who seemed to have the erroneous idea that the town was going to pay every one for carrying scholars to school, we attribute the good results accomplished in these schools not indirectly to it, and hope that the town will take this into consideration, as several scholars have been schooled who received no training in the public schools last year.

The scholars living in what was District No. 8—where there is no school house—have been schooled, some in No. 7, and some in Bernardston, and are not badly inconvenienced. The scholars living in the western part of this district could be more easily and more cheaply schooled in Bernardston than elsewhere, the cost of schooling there being much less than conveying them to No. 7.

In seven of the nine schools the same teachers have been retained through the entire year, and the progress and good results generally accomplished seem most certainly to confirm the wisdom of keeping the same teacher whenever the services of that teacher are satisfactory. A too frequent change of teachers is a serious drawback to the progress and efficiency of our schools. A fair teacher once installed better be kept than run the even risk of securing a better one. Many teachers have plans that cannot be successfully carried out in one term of a few weeks, and by changing, a new teacher with different

methods, pays but little attention to what has been done, and moreover it takes nearly one term for a teacher to learn the disposition and become acquainted with the attainments and requirements of the scholars. Generally speaking, we have, in our judgment, been fortunate in the main, in the selection of our corps of teachers the past year, having endeavored to secure such as were thought would prove to be in every respect industrious and adapted to incite the powers and habits of thinking. Considerable difficulty was experienced in filling satisfactorily a vacancy in our centre school, but aside from that we have experienced little or no difficulty, having a large list of experienced and well-recommended teachers at hand. We have been pleased to note in visiting schools, improvement in teachers as well as scholars. Better methods of teaching are constantly suggesting themselves to teachers who are on the alert for improvement, either by contact with other teachers, or from a longer personal experience with children.

Under the present town system a great deal of additional work has been thrown upon the superintending committee, which makes them responsible for the care of the school property, the school supplies, including fuel and repairs, hiring teachers and furnishing text books.

The new law concerning text books went into effect on the first day of August, 1884, requiring the committee of every city or town to purchase at the expense of said city or town, text books and other school supplies used in public schools; and the said text books and supplies are to be loaned to the scholars of public schools free of charge, being subject to such rules and regulations as to care and custody as the committee may prescribe. The law definitely states that scholars supplied with text books at the time of the passage of this act shall not be supplied with similar books by the committee until needed. In order not to furnish pupils with text books who already possessed them, your committee furnished each teacher with a blank book before the close of the term preceding the

introduction of free books, and gave instructions to them to ascertain by personal examination what books fit for use each pupil possessed, and to make a record of the same. Scholars who possessed such books were required to bring them to school, and were not furnished by the committee. Nevertheless, the demand made upon us was, for new text books, somewhat larger than anticipated, which we were powerless to suppress. All books owned by the town were labeled and carefully charged to the pupils to whom they were loaned, and teachers instructed to care for them and keep a correct account each term. The books generally have been well cared for and have not been taken home for study without the teacher's permit. There has been no change in school books during the year, the present books being, so far as we know, satisfactory. Mr. L. T. Webster is the authorized agent of the town for school books and supplies. His account will be found elsewhere.

Concerning repairs we have endeavored to keep the school houses in as good condition as possible. Something has been done in nearly all; and our school houses are in much better repair than when the town assumed the responsibility of them two years ago. The house in No. 4 has been quite thoroughly repaired, being newly seated and floored, both of which were much needed. This took a large share of our appropriation. The school house No. 2 needs painting, and the blinds need repairing; and house No. 6 is badly in need of a new foundation; but aside from this, no repairs of a large extent are known to your committee, although repairs of a minor order will be necessary in all. Each house has been furnished with chairs and we most urgently pray that those chairs be more frequently occupied by visitors and patrons of our public schools. If our schools were more frequently visited, less dissatisfaction would be found with teachers and school officials. The larger percent. of people who find fault with teachers and the manage-

ment of schools are, generally speaking, those who know the least concerning them.

Your committee have taken especial pains to look after the outbuildings and their connections. These buildings should be kept with purity and free from contamination, which is thought to be a prolific source of moral defilement.

There are no children known to your committee who have not been in school during the past year, although there are a few who have not had the twenty weeks of schooling required by law. It seems necessary to remind parents or guardians that the law very explicitly calls for twenty weeks schooling at the least. Parents or guardians who do not give children this amount make themselves liable to the penalty.

We present on another page a schedule of school statistics of which we invite a careful perusal.

In conclusion we would suggest that for the ensuing year there be appropriated for schools \$2,200; for repairs on school buildings, \$200, which is one-third less than last year's appropriation, but is thought sufficient for all repairs now known to your committee, and \$150 for a conveyance fund to be used at the committee's discretion for carrying scholars.

W. J. WRIGHT,	}	School Committee.
JOSEPH B. CALLENDER,		
D. EVERETT LYMAN,		

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR 1884-85.

No. of schools supported by town,	9
“ different teachers employed,	12
“ children in town between the ages of 5 and 15, according to census taken last May,	247
“ different children in school,	282
“ pupils under the age of 5 and over 15,	31
Aggregate number of weeks school has been kept,	285
Average number of weeks for each district,	31.75
Aggregate actual attendance in weeks for the town,	6546
Average “ “ “ “ “ each scholar,	23.21
“ wages of teachers per month,	\$29 77
Amount appropriated by town for schools,	\$2200
“ “ “ “ “ repairs,	\$300
Average amount thus appropriated per week,	\$8.77
“ “ “ “ “ child,	\$8.86

AVERAGE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP.

School No. 1, Primary	42.4
“ “ 1, Grammar,	35.1
“ “ 2,	26.9
“ “ 3,	22.5
“ “ 4,	26.7
“ “ 5,	9.1
“ “ 6,	9.7
“ “ 7,	28.5
“ “ 9,	21.8
Total,	222.7

AVERAGE MONTHLY ATTENDANCE.

School No. 1, Primary,	38.0
“ “ 1, Grammar,	29.6
“ “ 2,	25.9
“ “ 3,	18.5
“ “ 4,	24.9
“ “ 5,	9.12
“ “ 6,	9.3
“ “ 7,	25.9
“ “ 9,	17.6
Total,	198.82

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

FEBRUARY 21, 1885.

No. of volumes reported last year,	2458
“ “ “ purchased,	158
“ “ “ presented,	15
	2631
Condemned,	1
No. of volumes now in library,	2630

144 families have accepted the advantages of the library, and 4284 volumes have been in circulation during the past year.

While the number of families taking books has remained nearly the same, the number of volumes circulated, has diminished nearly one fifth. The selection of books for a public library is a task of no minor importance. That some books of questionable character occasionally find their way into the library, may be expected, but should be removed soon as discovered, and in this patrons may greatly assist the committee by reporting such books when found. Lists for new books handed to the committee will assist them in making their selections. The proportion of fiction purchased last year was less than in former years, which may account for the falling off in circulation.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

	Dr.
To Cash on hand, last report,	\$62 10
Appropriation for new books,	200 00
“ “ care of Library,	75 00
Fines received,	5 06
	\$342 16

	Cr.
1884.	
Apr. 30. By paid exp. on books from Boston,	\$2 65
May 7. “ for paper,	2 67
“ “ exp. on paper,	25
May 13. “ exp. on supplemental catalogues,	15
May 15. “ for “ “	5 00
May 20. “ Lockwood, Brooks and Co., for new books,	199 56
July 29. “ Exp. on books,	25
Aug. 19. “ L. W. Rice for binding books,	3 60
Oct. 11. “ Express on book,	25
1885. “ Flora E. Lane's Est.,	45 00
Feb. 16. “ N. A. Holton, librarian,	60 00
“ “ N. A. Holton, sundries as per bill,	1 56
By Cash in hands of library committee,	21 22
	\$342 16

DR. R. C. WARD, }
 DR. E. P. PIERCE, } LIBRARY COMMITTEE.
 REV. E. R. DRAKE, }

We have this day carefully examined the accounts of the Library committee of said Northfield, and find them correct and properly vouched for.

CHAS. POMEROY, }
 L. T. WEBSTER, } AUDITORS.
 R. K. CALDWELL, }

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR ON THE
ELISHA ALEXANDER FUND.

Amount in bank, Jan. 1, 1884,	\$1043 60
“ of interest to Jan. 1, 1885,	42 14
	\$1085 74

Drawn from the bank Jan. 2, 1885 and paid as follows :	\$60 00
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Widow Abbie Barrett,	\$10 00	
“ Ellen O’Keefe,	10 00	
“ Hannah Holton,	5 00	
“ Nancy Hilliard,	5 00	
“ Tirzah Holton,	5 00	
“ Margaret Reagan,	5 00	
James N. Caldwell,	5 00	
Gad C. Lyman,	5 00	
Lawson May,	5 00	
Horris Sykes,	5 00	
		\$60 00
Amount in bank, Jan. 1, 1885,		\$1025 74

R. C. WARD,	}	OVERSEERS
GEO. F. ALEXANDER,		
S. G. WILDES,		OF THE POOR.

The balance against the town of \$439.95 is not a correct statement of the financial condition of the town. A true report of the town's indebtedness can not be given when settlement is made before the close of a fiscal year. We give an estimate of the debts of the town March 1, 1885.

Balance against the town,	\$439 95
Abatement, tax of 1883,	57 58
New road,	65 00
Hospitals, about	89 32
Poor, “	44 25
Breaking roads, “	16 00
Registrars, “	50 00
Schools, “	192 20
Estimated indebtedness, March 1, 1885,	\$934 30

We do not embody in this report, but would recommend the the following appropriations :

Highways,	\$1800 00
Schools,	2000 00
Repairs,	150 00
Carrying Scholars,	75 00
Library,	160 00
Contingent,	2000 00

R. C. WARD,	} SELECTMEN
GEO. F. ALEXANDER,	
S. G. WILDES,	
	OF
	NORTHFIELD,

